

# iGEM Rhizi

## *A Graphical and Collaborative Database*

The graphical database “iGEM Rhizi” is based on a platform called Rhizi. But to understand its short story, you need to know the environment in which our team (Paris Bettencourt) works. Our team was created at the CRI (Center for Research and Interdisciplinarity) in Paris. This is a place where a lots of things happen: there are students (one Bachelor program, two Master’s programs and one doctoral school), some research, a fab lab, a start-up incubator, many societies, etc.

A former student ([Dor Garbash](#)) had the idea of a collaborative and graphical database. He started developing it and made a startup out of it. We hence discovered this tool via networking within the CRI, which is a nice symbol when you think of it. This tool is free to use and you can easily [discover and edit its code](#) to make it fit to your needs. Dor kindly made an instance for us and we only had to figure out a way to enter and show data to maximize the connections between teams. We came up with the following nodes: Teams, Keywords, Organisms, Wet-lab techniques, Computational techniques and Tracks. Since the concept of a graphical database is not common, we made a [video tutorial](#) to help teams in their first steps.

Before advertising, we wanted to have some feedback about both the iGEM Rhizi and the video we made. So we contacted some neighbour teams (in Paris and France) and asked them to use and test the iGEM Rhizi. We received positive feedback and were ready to release our idea to the entire world.

To advertise about this, we first made a big list of all the iGEM teams with all the email addresses and other contact information we could find. And you know what happened next: we sent an email to every team, praying that it is not treated as spam, created a Twitter hashtag (#iGEMRhizi). Some teams, as well as the iGEM HQ were very supportive after discovering this tool.

It is still the beginning of the iGEM Rhizi but for the moment it is a great experience!

Team Paris Bettencourt